

May 10, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

## **STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

### **State Budget**

Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2 and Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 both approved an item in the Governor's proposed budget that will provide \$6.5 million for the statewide beach restoration program. This program is funded within the Harbors and Watercraft Fund, administered by the Department of Boating and Waterways. Within the \$6.5 million is \$183,000 for Los Angeles County's cost share of the Army Corps of Engineers' "Coast of California Study-Los Angeles County Segment". As with other discretionary programs, this funding may be vulnerable in light of the State's growing budget deficit.

### **Pursuit of County Position on Legislation**

**AB 2251 (Keeley)**, as amended on April 25, 2002, would appropriate an unspecified amount for sudden oak death management and regulatory activities in the 2002 Budget Act. It would also require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop and implement prescribed measures to prevent, control, and manage the condition, as well as to perform control work on public and private lands where sudden oak death is occurring.

On May 9, 2000, the Board directed the Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures and the Fire Chief to investigate and report on the disease. Reports to your Board since July, 2000 indicate that although the disease has not yet been detected in Los Angeles County, various quarantines have affected Los Angeles area nursery shipments and the disease

is reported to be spreading south via air-borne pathogens and water systems and is affecting other woodland plants, such as rhododendrons. Activities funded by AB 2251 would be consistent with the ongoing efforts to learn more about the disease, slow its spread, and develop control methods. **The Agricultural Commissioner, Director of the Department of Weights and Measures recommends that the County support AB 2251 because it would provide funds to assist the Department in enforcing quarantine and pest abatement, provide educational and technical assistance to local agencies, and assist in local tree and plant maintenance programs, and we concur.**

AB 2251 was passed by the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources on April 15, 2002, by a vote of 10 to 0. The bill was referred to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations on May 1, 2002, but no hearing date has been set. It is supported by the California League of Conservation Voters, East Bay Municipal Utility District, California State Association of Counties, Defenders of Wildlife, Sierra Club of California, and the Counties of El Dorado, Marin (sponsor), Mendocino, Placer, San Luis Obispo, Solano, Sonoma, Yolo and, Yuba. There is no registered opposition.

#### **Status of County-Interest Legislation**

**County-supported AB 2005 (Nakano)**, as amended on April 23, 2002, would prohibit the use of personal watercraft (jet skis) between sunset and sunrise, exempt persons using underwater maneuvering devices from the requirement to wear a personal flotation device, and require the courts to order persons convicted of certain violations to complete and pass a boating safety course. Existing law requires the courts to order persons convicted of certain violations of the Penal Code to complete and pass a boating safety course. AB 2005 would have expanded the list of convictions to include violations of certain Coast Guard regulations. As amended on May 6, 2002, the bill now *authorizes*, rather than *requires*, the courts to order persons convicted of violating the Coast Guard regulations to complete and pass a boating safety course, without changing the requirements in existing law.

**County-supported AB 2238 (Dickerson)**, which would prohibit any State or local agency from posting on the internet the home address or telephone number of any public official, their spouse or children who reside with the public official, was amended on May 1, 2002 to prohibit an assessor's office from allowing the public to search their records using an assessee's name. AB 2238 is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee awaiting a hearing date.

**County-supported SB 1276 (Speier)**, which would make registration for the Selective Service System through the DMV an option that can be exercised by an applicant, was amended on May 1, 2002 to require that notice be given to an applicant that receipt of a driver's license or identification card is not dependent on the applicant agreeing to have their information

Each Supervisor  
May 10, 2002  
Page 3

transmitted to the Selective Service System. SB 1276 is set for hearing on May 13, 2002 in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**County-opposed SB 1609 (Soto)**, which would mandate that development of a blood-borne infectious disease by county health care workers is presumed to be contracted on the job, making them eligible for workers' compensation disability benefits and disability retirement, was placed in the Senate Appropriations Suspense File on May 6, 2002 because of the "unknown, but potentially significant cost on local governments."

**County-supported SB 1688 (Margett)**, which would create a supplemental funding mechanism for firefighting services, was amended on May 1, 2002 to require the State Controller to distribute the funds to local agencies rather than have counties distribute the funding. SB 1688 is set for hearing on May 13, 2002 in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**County-supported SB 2057 (O'Connell)** would make a person guilty of a misdemeanor, who knowingly makes a false report to any agency or agency official responsible for conducting search and rescue in the State; or, guilty of a felony if the false report causes great bodily injury. The bill was amended on April 30, 2002 to include technical language to clarify that a perpetrator is guilty of a felony when he knows that a responder is likely to suffer death or great bodily injury. SB 2057 is set for hearing on May 13, 2002 in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

We will continue to keep you advised of any new developments.

DEJ:GK  
DRS:md

c:     Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
        County Counsel  
        All Department Heads  
        Legislative Strategist  
        Local 660  
        Coalition of County Unions  
        California Contract Cities Association  
        Independent Cities Association  
        League of California Cities  
        City Managers Associations  
        Buddy Program Participants